

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 31 (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A method for protecting a tubular junction, comprising:

providing a first tubular and a second tubular, each tubular having an outer surface and an interior surface for the passage of fluid;

placing a protective surface finish on an interior of the tubulars;

providing a joining tubular having a surface finish on an interior thereof;

connecting the joining tubular between the first and second tubulars to create a junction, the junction only including the joining tubular and an end of each of the first and second tubulars and having a continuous surface finish on an interior surface thereof; and

welding the junction joining tubular to the first and second tubulars in a manner whereby the ~~uninterrupted~~ continuous surface finish remains ~~[[in]]~~ on the interior surface of the junction along a non-welded portion between the joining tubular and the end of each of the first and second tubulars.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the first and second tubulars are made of an alloy, the alloy comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of:

- 1) nickel;
- 2) iron;
- 3) chromium; and
- 4) aluminum.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the welding takes place on an exterior of the junction.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the protective coating on the first and second tubulars is a made by aluminization.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the protective coating on the junction tubular is made by aluminization.

37. (Currently Amended) A method of joining tubulars, comprising:
providing at least two tubulars and at least one joining tubular, each tubular having an outer surface and an inner surface defining a fluid path;

treating the at least two tubulars with a first protective coating, wherein:

- a) the first protective coating is selected to protect the pieces of equipment from exposure to temperatures at least equal to the temperature at which metal dusting occurs and to at least one fluid, wherein the fluid comprises at least one member selected from:
 - 1) a hydrocarbon; and
 - 2) carbon monoxide; and
- b) the pieces of equipment are made from an alloy, wherein the alloy comprises at least one member selected from:
 - 1) nickel;
 - 2) iron;
 - 3) chromium; and
 - 4) aluminum;

treating the at least part of an interior surface of the joining tubular piece with a second protective coating selected to protect the coated joining tubular piece from corrosion over at least part of the interior surface of the joining tubular piece; and

welding the treated joining tubular to each of the respective tubulars in a manner whereby a continuous protective coating remains along a non-welded portion between the two tubulars and the joining tubular ~~whereby the treated tubulars are~~

~~joined to one another and wherein the welding is not applied to the interior surface of the joining piece.~~

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the second protective coating is produced by aluminization.

39. - 40. (Cancelled)